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SUMMARY OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TRENDS:

APRIL, 1985

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
612/296-6849

The Summary of Minnesota Public Assistance Trends is an official report of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2nd Floor Space Center Building, 444 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55101, and is published by the Reports and Statistics Section, Assistance Payments Policy and Operations Division.

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MINNESOTA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY

	April 1985	CHANGE FROM March 1985 Number or Amount	Percent	CHANGE FROM April 1984 Number or Amount	Percent
Aid to Families with Dependent Children					
Cases Receiving Payment	52,623	350	0.7	1,161	2.3
Children	93,113	645	0.7	4,634	5.0
Caretakers	58,465	371	0.6	1,380	2.4
Total Net Payments	$ 23,075,431	-$ 114,990	- 0.5	$ 2,506,380	12.2
Average Grant Per Case	$ 438.50	-$ 5.14	- 1.2	$ 38.81	9.7
Average Grant Per Person	$ 147.37	-$ 1.71	- 1.1	$ 10.71	7.8
Emergency Assistance					
Cases Receiving Payment	1,206	171	16.5	262	27.8
Persons Receiving Payment	4,148	670	19.3	853	25.9
AFDC Persons Receiving Payment(a)	2,968	631	27.0	581	24.3
Total Net Payments	$ 510,384	$ 79,578	18.5	$ 130,299	34.3
Average Payment Per Case	$ 423.20	$ 6.96	1.7	$ 20.57	5.1
Supplemental Security Income					
Persons Receiving Payment	31,243	142	0.5	1,377	4.6
Total Net Payments	$ 5,071,296	$ 27,408	0.5	$ 410,664	8.8
Average Grant Per Person	$ 162.32	0.14	0.1	$ 6.27	4.0
Minnesota Supplemental Aid					
Persons with SSI	8,772	17	0.2	109	1.3
Persons without SSI	1,690	18	1.1	242	16.7
Total Net Payments	$ 1,476,159	$ 47,801	3.3	$ 298,479	25.3
Average Grant Per Person	$ 141.10	$ 4.11	3.0	24.62	21.1
General Assistance(b)					
Cases Receiving Payment	36,438	437	1.2	18,065	98.3
Family Cases	2,080	33	1.6	994	91.5
Persons in Family Case	5,523	107	2.0	2,568	86.9
Single Cases	34,358	404	1.2	17,071	98.8
Total Gross Payments	$ 8,065,485	$ 291,397	3.7	$ 3,639,416	82.2
Avg. Grant Per Family Case	$ 362.40	$ 48.16	15.3	-$ 18.75	- 4.9
Avg. Grant Per Family Person	$ 136.48	$ 17.71	14.9	-$ 3.60	- 2.6
Avg. Grant Per Single Case	$ 212.81	$ 2.80	1.3	-$ 19.28	- 8.3
Total Net Payments	$ 7,327,430	$ 152,220	2.1	$ 3,409,526	87.0
TOTAL FOR CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS					
Persons Receiving Payment	230,572	1,726	0.8	27,594	13.6
Total Net Payments	$ 34,460,700	$ 192,017	0.5	$ 6,755,348	22.0

MINNESOTA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY

		CHANGE FROM March 1985		CHANGE FROM April 1984	
	April 1985	Number or Amount	Percent	Number or Amount	Percent
Medical Assistance					
Total MA-Only Persons	69,401	8,595.	14.1	5,517	8.6
Total Persons Concurrently Receiving SSI or MSA	25,071	2,082	9.1	1,541	6.6
Total Persons Concurrently Receiving AFDC(a)	94,670	21,239	28.9	913	1.0
Total Net Payments	$ 99,203,113	$21,034,183	26.9	$ 9,655,220	10.8
Average Payment Per:					
MA-Only Person	$ 837.86	$ 31.91	4.0	-$ 12.20	1.4
SSI/MSA Recipient	$ 941.32	$ 129.46	16.0	$ 75.86	8.8
AFDC Recipient	$ 184.38	$ 41.41	29.0	$ 25.69	16.2
General Assistance Medical Care					
Total GAMC-Only Persons	8,717	2,221	34.2	- 1,051	- 10.8
Total Persons Concurrently Receiving GA	17,824	4,470	33.5	6,529	57.8
Total Net Payments	$ 8,413,493	$ 3,540,033	72.6	$ 3,777,120	81.5
Average Payment Per:					
GAMC-Only Person	$ 316.63	$ 61.94	24.3	$ 96.44	43.8
GA Recipient	$ 317.18	$ 76.13	31.6	$ 97.12	44.1
TOTAL FOR MEDICAL PROGRAMS					
Persons Receiving Payment	215,683	33,607	21.8	13,449	6.6
Total Payments	$107,616,606	$24,574,216	29.6	$13,432,340	14.3
TOTAL FOR CASH AND MEDICAL PROGRAMS COMBINED					
Persons Receiving Payment	308,690	12,542	4.2	32,060	11.6
Total Payments	$145,077,306	$24,766,233	20.6	$20,187,683	16.2

(a) Excluded when calculating the total persons for all programs.
(b) Includes post-closing persons and cases.

PROGRAM NOTES

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) This program displayed a mixed pattern during April marked by advances in the number of families requiring assistance and lower expenditure levels. Lower expenditures resulted from greater child support collections, which reached $1,914,987 during April, $335,047 more than the previous month.

There were 52,623 families receiving assistance during April, a monthly gain of 350 (0.7%). The urban (+77) and suburban (+407) counties contributed to this growth particularly within the regular category at +91 and +316 respectively. The monthly level, while not a record, is the highest reported thus far in Fiscal 1985.

Expenditures totalled $23,075,431 representing a decline of $114,990 (0.5%) from March. This reduction occurred within the regular segment (-$206,250, 1.1%) and occurred in the rural counties (-$201,217, -3.5%). This ultimately was moderated by higher payments to unemployed parents in the urban +$51,698 and suburban +$42,712 counties.

This month approvals fell 464 (-12.8%) which is indicative of normal seasonal variation. Reopenings represented 50.4% of the approvals compared to 42.6% for new and 7.0% for transfers between counties. Proportionately, reopenings were more frequent in the suburban counties comprising 58.5% of the total approvals as opposed to 50.0% for the three urban counties and 48.8% for the rural counties. Economic factors such as loss or reduction of employment of the responsible or supporting household member due to lay off, discharge or her/his own initiative or continued absence from the home played a major role in the applications for assistance. These economic factors were responsible for 80.5% of the approvals.

Emergency Assistance (EA) During April the county agencies received additional requests for assistance because of impending utility shutoffs, which could legally occur after April 1st. This contributed to higher caseload and expenditure levels during the month.

There were 1,206 families who received assistance during April. This was 171 (16.5%) higher than March. In the utility category alone 486 families were assisted, an advance of 181 (59.3%). The majority of this growth 148 (81.8%) was in aid to AFDC recipients.

April's expenses totalled $510,384. This was $79,578 (18.5%) higher than March and is $130,299 (34.3%) more than the $380,085 expended one year ago. As with families, most of the month's increase was utility related. Expenses for this category reached $236,722 for a monthly advance of $95,374 (67.5%). Expenditure growth was essentially for AFDC families, +$78,320 (82.1%), with the majority occurring in Hennepin +$24,642 (67.9%), Ramsey +$23,988 (154.7%), and St. Louis $8,014 (155.9%) counties.

Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) Higher recipient numbers and greater expenditures marked this program during April. Recipients totalled 10,462 during the month, 35 (0.3%) above March while expenditures advanced $47,801 (3.3%) to $1,476,159. Monthly performance set new records for recipients and expenditures.

The greatest change occurred within the Disabled category which advanced by 27 cases (0.3%) and $35,410 (3.1%). The recipient growth was essentially urban in character with Hennepin, Ramsey and St. Louis counties, up 24, 27 and 6 recipients respectively. The payment change, however, occurred in Hennepin county +$44,823 (10.9%) and was due to higher costs for current $18,351 and initial $21,051 recipients.

The Aged category also supported the increase rising 9 recipients (0.4%) and $13,211 (5.1%). The recipient change was so general so as to be without focus, however, the expenditure growth was centered in Hennepin county $10,093 (25.9%) and involved current (ongoing recipients $5;461 (14.6%) as well as special needs $2,652 (215.8%).

General Assistance (GA) The total number of persons receiving GA for April 1985 was 39,881. This was 511 (1.3%) more than March 1985 and 19,639 (97.0%) more than April 1984. The average grant (gross dollars) per person for April 1985 was $202.24. This was $4.78 (2.4%) more than March 1985 and $16.42 (7.5%) less than April 1984.

Application activity decreased compared to March. The number of applications received was 9.8% lower and the total applications on hand decreased by 9.8%. The number of applications disposed of decreased by 9.8% to 6,143. Of these 5,168 (84.1%) were approved.

The 5,168 cases added in April brought the total cases eligible to 38,865. This was an increase of 0.6% compared to March. Payments were made for 36,130 (93.0%) of the eligible cases. There were 5,210 cases closed which left 33,655 eligible cases continued to May.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
(excluding Food Stamps)

Month and Year	Total Persons	Total Payments	Average Payment Per Person
April 1984	276,630	$124,889,618	$451.96
May	270,545	107,075,977	395.78
June	267,352	110,029,505	411.55
July	272,653	112,074,615	411.05
August	269,996	114,242,018	423.12
September	269,111	117,343,505	436.04
October	279,861	135,109,786	482.77
November	274,464	117,246,703	427.18
December	282,106	122,067,579	432.71
January 1985	287,584	122,634,575	426.43
February	290,967	119,224,742	409.75
March	296,148	120,311,073	406.25
April 1985	308,690	$145,077,306	$469.98
May 1984 through April 1985	Average 280,790	Total $1,442,437,384	Average $428.09
		Average $ 120,203,115	

FOOD STAMPS

Month and Year	Cases	Persons	Allotments	Average Allotment Per Case
April 1984	91,570	247,239	$8,393,892	$91.67
May	89,184	240,797	7,982,652	89.51
June	88,603	239,228	8,059,569	90.96
July	87,553	236,393	8,063,048	92.09
August	87,196	229,325	7,823,055	89.72
September	85,816	225,696	7,438,327	86.68
October	85,207	218,981	8,297,851	97.38
November	86,105	221,534	8,396,738	97.52
December	87,275	223,590	8,633,813	98.93
January 1985	89,556	231,043	8,732,449	97.51
February	92,169	229,113	9,027,710	97.95
March	94,162	235,174	9,135,316	97.02
April 1985	93,919	236,231	$9,057,652	$96.44